URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1941

Chairman of the Council: Councillor F. A. Bates.

Finance & General Purposes Committee:

Chairman: Councillor O. Wells, J.P.
Councillors H.P. Dimmock, J.P., C.D. Flack, S. Maycock, A.J. Stevens, J.P., and F.A. Bates.

Public Health Committee:

Chairman: Councillor S. Maycock.
Councillors T.R. Coles, C.D. Flack, W.G. Mells, F.A. Bates, and O. Wells, J.P.

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health: A. Michael Critchley, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(On war service).

Acting M.O.H. Janet Ronaldson.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Buckingham.

Sanitary Inspector: A. Bates, M.Inst.M.& Cy.E., A.M.T.P.I., A.P.San.I.
(Certificate R.S.I. & S.I. Joint Board and Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Food Inspection).

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF

BLETCHLEY.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1941. I took up my duties in May of the year under review, upon the resignation of Dr. Stones, who was proceeding to Malta as Medical Officer in charge of the Seamens' Hospital on that island.

In May it appeared to me that the tide of evacuees was tending to recede, and consequently, the medical difficulties in this connection were fewer.

The general level of infectious disease, however, despite the influx, has been remarkably low, and nutrition and general developement amongst the children examined, was of a fairly high standard. The increased restrictions on the varieties of food formerly available, does not appear to have affected adversely, health or nutrition.

The School Clinic continues to offer an excellant service, and in addition to being in use once a week for the Child Welfare Clinic, is used by the Army Medical Officer and by the Air Raid Precautions Services.

The Home for unbilletable children at Ropley House has been closed and the remaining children were moved to Winslow. Ropley House had served its purpose well, and had, during the peak of evacuation, been of great service to the town.

The Blood Transfusion Service is still in operation and the response continues to be good, although donors are still required.

A Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, commenced by Dr. Stones has been continued monthly and a steadily increasing proportion of the children are being immunised, but there is still an urgent need for parents to realise the necessity of having infants from one to five years immunised before an epidemic occurs.

A fortnightly clinic in Child Psychology for "problem children" has now been established under Dr. Ethel Dukes. Cases requiring further investigation and supervision have been selected and sent to Hospitals and Hostels in Aylesbury, and in one case, an evacuee boy was placed in a Farm Colony with subsequent satisfactory reports.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and also your Clerk and Surveyor for the great assistance which they have always so willingly given.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

[illegible]

Section A. SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

1 9 4 1

Area (in acres)		4,463
Population (Registrar General's estimate)		10,500
No. of inhabited houses (end of year)		2,400
Rateable value		£46,700
Rates per £1		12/-
Sum represented by a 1d Rate (gross)		£194. 7. 0.
Births (legitimate):		
Males	69	
Females	65	134
Births (illegitimate):		
Males	1	
Females	2	3
Births: Rate for 1,000 population		13.0
Still Births:		
Males	1	
Females	2	3
Deaths:		
Males	47	
Females	46	93
Deaths per 1,000 population		8.85
Deaths from puerperal causes		0
Bletchley Maternal Mortality		0
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age		6
Deaths from Measles		0
Deaths from Whooping Cough		2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		0

Principal Causes of Death:	M.	F.	T.
Influenza.	0.	0.	0.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1.	1.	2.
Cancer	10.	4.	14.
Diabetes	0.	1.	1.
Heart Disease	7.	10.	17.
Other Circulatory Diseases	2.	2.	4.
Bronchitis	3.	1.	4.
Pneumonia	6.	2.	8.
Other Respiratory Diseases	0.	1.	1.
Digestive Diseases	0.	1.	1.
Other forms of tuberculosis	1.	1.	2.
Syphilitic Diseases	0.	1.	1.
Ac:inf:encaph:	1.	0.	1.
Intracranial vascular lesions	2.	3.	5.
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1.	1.	2.
Premature Births	1.	0.	1.
Con:mal:birth:inj:infant:dis:	3.	1.	4.
Suicide	0.	0.	0.
Road traffic accidents	0.	1.	1.
Other violent causes	3.	3.	6.
All other causes	6.	10.	16.
TOTAL	47.	44.	91.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

i. Public Health Staff - see Page 1 of Report.

Health Services.

ii. (a) Laboratory Facilities:

The Council has arranged with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service of the School of Pathology, Oxford, to perform its pathological investigations. An economy has thereby been effected and a fuller service been acquired.

(b) Ambulance facilities.

The Austin 18 Ambulance continues to function satisfactorily and three A.R.P. ambulances are also available.

(c) Nursing in the home remains as in the previous reports.

(d) Clinics:

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

The Welfare has been held weekly at the School Clinic, the M.O.H. attending twice each month. The Centre has carried on its functions satisfactorily. National pool milk has been available for supply to mothers but there seems to have been no shortage of fresh milk so the demand for pool milk has not been great.

Other Clinics under this head have been held as in previous years.

(e) Hospitals:

No change in the hospitals serving this area has occurred since the last Medical Officer of Health's report.

Section C. Sanitary circumstances of the area.

1. (i) Water:

Nothing of note has occurred in connection with the water supply of the town during the year. The quality of the water remains at its usual high level and frequent samples of the supply, both at the Works and throughout the town, are taken. The following is a typical analysis:

Chemical Characters:

	Parts per 100,000.	Grains per Gallon.
Chlorine in Chlorides . .	1.95	1.36
Chlorine x 1.647 = Sodium Chloride .	3.20	2.24
Nitrogen as Nitrates . .	Nil	Nil
Saline Ammonia . . .	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia . .	0.002	0.0014
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37 degrees Centigrade . .	0.012	0.0084

Remarks.

From a consideration of the above data, no exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes, upon chemical grounds.

Examination for Special Bacteria.

Coliform bacilli . . . . absent in 100 ml.

Result of examination.

From a consideration of the data, no exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes, upon bacteriological grounds.

At the end of the year the Council ceased to operate the Gt. Brickhill Waterworks and handed this supply over to the Bucks Water Board, which now supplies the village of Gt. Brickhill. This was done to afford the inhabitants of the village an uninterrupted supply.

(ii) Drainage:

No new drainage work has been undertaken. The Sewage Works, despite overloading and despite certain private sewerage extensions which have taken place on a somewhat large scale, continue to function satisfactorily.

2. (i) Rivers and streams.

There has been no serious flooding during the year. The Ouse Catchment Board have cleaned out the main river of the Little Ouse and this has, no doubt, materially helped in this desirable state of affairs.

3. (i) Closet accommodation.

The whole of the drainage of Bletchley is on the water carriage system except for a few houses at Water Eaton, the conversion of which is being deferred until the Water Eaton main drainage scheme is carried out. This scheme will be put into operation as soon as circumstances permit. No sanitary nuisance arises from these isolated cases.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

House refuse collection has been put on a fortnightly basis instead of a weekly basis in order to afford greater facilities for the collection of salvage, which has now assumed a very high percentage of the total collection and the town stands high in the Buckinghamshire averages for Salvage collection.

(iii) Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Inspections made.

Water . . .	112	Housing . .	70	Buildings . .	30
Bakehouses .	12	Sewerage .	100	Destructor .	53
Factories . .	16	Drainage .	105	Smoke . . .	5

Food Premises . . 15, Slaughterhouses . 250.

Total Inspections . . 768.

Houses and clothing disinfected . .	11
Informal notices	70
Statutory Notices	--

(iv) Shops.

Inspections have been made under the Shops Act of the shops in the district and no statutory action has been required to meet the provisions of the Act.

(v) Camping Sites.

There are no registered camping sites in the Bletchley Urban Area.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

Complaints have been received during the year in respect of a Canteen Chimney belonging to a Government Department. Suitable informal representations made to the Department and to the Engineer in charge of the stoking plant have resulted in a complete abatement of the trouble.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

(a) There is no change in this position since previous reports.

(b) There is one privately owned swimming pool which has been closed down during the war with the object of saving water.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There has been only one case of bed bugs during the year and appropriate action was taken. Apart from a minor re-occurrence later on the case appears to have been satisfactorily dealt with.

(ix) Schools:

The number of schools remains as before, though, partly owing to the return to London of many evacuees, there was a decline in the number of children.

The figures for December 1940 and December 1941 was as follows:-

(ix) Schools.

	On Roll.
Senior Boys.	
December, 1940	124
" 1941	74
Senior Girls.	
December, 1940	117
" 1941	69
Junior Mixed.	
December, 1940	268
" 1941	156
Infants.	
December, 1940	178
" 1941	101

Ropley House.

Ropley House, which was opened as a Home for unbilletable children on April 1st 1940 has now been closed because of the falling off in the number of children to be billeted there, and the children transferred to the Elm Sick Bay at Winslow.

Section D. Housing.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1. (1) a. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 27
   b. Number of Inspections made for the purpose 43

   (2) a. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 27
   b. Number of inspections made for the purpose 43

   (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation . 0

   (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation . 0

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

   Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local authority or their Officers 19

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year....Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. Overcrowding.

   (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 0
   2. Number of families dwelling therein . 0
   3. Number of persons dwelling therein . 0
   (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 0

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. (continued).

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 0
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases. 0
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report 0

No new Council Houses have been built during the year.

Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply: There are 34 farms registered and 30 retailers of milk.

(b) Meat: The Council's Sanitary Inspector has inspected all meat and this has meant a considerable increase in the scope of his duties because not only of the large numbers of animals to be slaughtered because Bletchley is a Central Depot for the area but because of the irregular times of slaughtering and the great increase in casualties slaughtered. It would appear that some system of centralised slaughtering after the war, such as is now in operation, would be of great benefit both to the butcher and to the public

	No. slaughtered.	No. Inspected.	No. condemned.
Cattle . . .	1, 107	1,107	44
Calves . . .	407	407	7
Sheep and lambs .	6, 895	6,895	30
Pigs . . .	251	251	10
TOTALS .	8, 660	8,660	91

(c) Other Foods:

During the year, consignments of damaged sugar have been received from the Sugar Refineries from the Port of London and these have been purified for the manufacture of glucose, brewer's sugar etc.

During the year a tea blending factory has been opened in the district, and has been constructed and is being operated on modern factory lines.

Section F. Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Diphtheria prophylaxis continues as before, a Clinic being held at Bletchley Welfare Clinic approximately once a month. Attendance has been good and there is now little need to urge parents to send their children

The vaccine used is Alum-Precipitated-Toxoid (A.P.T.), given in two doses.

The number of children who received complete treatment for the year was eight hundred and eighty.

Table showing number of cases notified and numbers admitted to an Isolation Hospital.

Disease	1 9 4 1 Notified	Admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria	8	8
Scarlet Fever . . .	3	3
Erysipelas	3	0
Puerperal Pyrexia . .	0	0
Pneumonia	2	0
Measles	107	0
Whooping Cough . . .	46	0
Acute Primary Broncho-pneumonia .	6	6
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	3	0

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

New Cases.				Deaths.			
Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.	0.	0.	0.	1.	1.	1.	1,

Cases of Infectious Disease According to Age and Sex.

	Total all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-35.	35-45.	45-65.	Over 65	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever . . .	M. 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F. 2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria . . .	M. 1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F. 7	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas . . .	M. 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
	F. 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	M. 1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F. 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	M.55	2	5	9	11	8	17	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
	F.52	-	8	2	11	5	19	3	2	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough . .	M.22	2	5	2	2	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.24	1	4	-	5	6	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Primary Broncho-pneumonia .	M. 4	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
	F. 2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia . .	M. 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
	F. -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-